



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: CICLO DE ESPERANZA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

MISSION: We work together to strengthen the capacity, resilience and power of groups led by Latinx people in North Carolina. We do this by:

- The redistribution of financial resources through a participatory community fund.
- The creation of co-conspiracy spaces (capacity building, training, healing spaces).

VISION: We work collectively to build a stronger state where Latino communities and all communities can thrive and feel connected to their own power.

VALUES:

We are pro-Black, pro-Indigenous, pro-women, pro-Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, and Queer, pro-worker, and pro-migrant because we recognize that our work towards collective liberation includes ALL members of our community. (Language borrowed from Mijente [Principles of Unity](#))

HISTORY OF FUNDING:

The NCLC has created a pooled fund which includes contributions from a combination of NC-based and national foundations. We've been in existence for about 8 years, and in that time the NC Latinx Collaborative completed 8 rounds of grantmaking (2 funder-led, focused on rapid response COVID-19 funding and 6 via participatory grantmaking where decisions were made by our Unifying Council whose members are all Latinx community leaders). To date we've redistributed a little over \$4.1 million dollars into the hands of Latinx-led groups/organizations in all three regions of our state.

SPRING 2026 GRANTS: CICLO DE ESPERANZA

In the last year our Latine immigrant community faced a variety of challenges in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. These challenges included navigating an openly hostile system towards immigrant families, as well as an increase in detentions and deportations among our neighbors, family, and friends. We experienced an overwhelming sense of fear and uncertainty that culminated in the events that transpired during immigration and border patrol enforcement activities in NC in November 2025.

While enforcement operations may not be as visible as they were in November 2025, the impacts of those actions are still being felt today. We've heard from our community partners about the increased need of services for families impacted by having the primary provider detained and/or deported which include financial assistance to pay for basic needs like rent, food insecurity, and access to culturally appropriate mental health services.

Our community has experienced so much, however even in the middle of all this we've also experienced how our grassroots leaders have become lifelines for our community's safety and wellbeing. It is why we've decided to name this year's grant cycle the "Ciclo de Esperanza" or "Cycle of hope" in recognition of the

work grassroots leaders and organizations continue to do to provide hope for our communities through difficult times.

PURPOSE:

The *Ciclo de Esperanza* from the NCLC will serve to strengthen the infrastructure of grassroots groups by providing **15 - 20, 2-year general operating grants of \$5,000 - \$30,000** to organizations who are doing **BOTH** of the following:

- 1) Providing direct assistance to Latinx families and individuals impacted by detentions and deportations.
- 2) Engaging in advocacy and/or organizing efforts that change the systems and conditions for immigrant communities

Examples of efforts we hope to support with this fund include:

- Frontline community-based organizations and networks working on **community protection and safety** including organizing efforts, mutual aid, and deportation defense trainings
- Grassroots organizations or groups that are **creating safe spaces and providing avenues to move securely through different spaces**. Examples of this include support groups, healing and decompression spaces, transportation to doctors appointments, accompaniment to court, and assistance with language justice.
- Organizations **responding to immigration raids and deportations** by providing assistance to families impacted by deportations and detentions. This can include mental health services, financial support, and assistance navigating systems post-detention.
- Organizations engaging in **civic engagement and advocacy at the local and state level** to address harmful legislation impacting immigrant communities.

We will NOT fund the following:

- Organizations not in line with our values
- Organizations/projects who promote religious education or projects that actively proselytize
- Government or State Agencies, Universities
- For-profit Business, Social Enterprise, Start-Up Costs, Capital-Raising campaigns
- Individuals (activists, consultants)
- We cannot fund 501c4 work at this time
- Organizations or groups who do not work in North Carolina

PRIORITY AREAS:

We will prioritize groups/organizations....

- Supporting **rural and/or under-resourced areas in North Carolina**
- Working with young people (age 0-24)
- Working with women and families

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Groups/organizations are eligible to apply if they:

- Are led by, serving, and accountable to Latinx people and communities. We will give priority to organizations **led by Latinx staff**. We also encourage strong representation of Latinx folks on Boards of Directors and/or leadership bodies for the organization.
- Have budgets of **\$500,000 a year or less**. We will give priority to those who have little or no access to traditional philanthropy and face ongoing barriers to securing funding
- **Are a grassroots, community-based organizations and infrastructure.**

- We define infrastructure as anything that can deepen the reach and depth of an organization's work and strengthen its capacity to serve the Latinx community in the long-run.
- We define grassroots groups as: groups/organizations/collectives of 3 or more people who work together on their own initiative to contribute to the integral development of their locality and solve problems of an economic, social and cultural nature.

We will provide grants to both groups who previously received funding from the NCLC. Groups or organizations that have not received a grant from the NCLC may also apply, provided they have a track record of community work of at least three years. ***If your organization has less than three years of experience in community work, the maximum amount it may receive in this grant cycle is \$5,000.***

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you meet the outlined criteria and are interested in applying for a grant please fill out **THIS FORM** with the following information.

If you have limited access to technology and prefer to address these questions in a phone interview, please email Daniela (daniela@nclatinxcollaborative.org) to set up that appointment in advance. She will not take appointments after May 28, 2026.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

- Email address
- What is your name?
- What is the name of your group/organization?
- What is your organization/group's mission/purpose?
- How long have you been officially working as a grassroots group or organization in the community?
- Please share your organization's website and/or social media pages
- What areas/cities/counties does your group/organization serve? Please note, we are giving priority to rural/low resources areas.
- How many paid staff (if any)? How many volunteers?
- Is your organization an established 501(c)(3)? If not, who serves as your fiscal sponsor?
- Please list your organization's or fiscal sponsor's EIN number
- Please provide the contact name, phone number, and email address of your fiscal sponsor.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS:

- Please check the box next to the following statements if they describe your organization:
 - The leadership of my group/organization identifies as Latinx?
 - There is a strong representation of Latinx people on my organization's board of directors and/or the leadership body of my organization
 - The majority of people served by my organization/grassroots group are Latinx
 - None of these statements apply to my organization
- What is your organization's annual budget? Please note that we prioritize groups with budgets up to \$500,000 per year.
- To help the Unifying Council learn more about your organization, we're asking you to share your annual budget. You can use [this example](#) if you don't have one yet. Upload your budget here or send it to daniela@nclatinxcollaborative.org.

SECTION 3: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What grant amount are you applying for (range is \$5,000-\$30,000)?
- Please describe the work you are doing with the immigrant community at this moment and how your work is building power for the Latinx community in North Carolina.

- What goals will these funds help your organization achieve over the next 2 years?
- Are you working with any other groups, organizations, or coalitions? If so, please list your top collaborators.
- OPTIONAL: Please upload a photo or video showing your work.

SECTION 4: REFERENCES

Please provide **2-3 references** of people who can speak to the work of your organization. One of these references should be from within your group/organization. As part of our process we will be contacting them to talk about your work.

- Reference 1,2,3
 - Name (First, Last)
 - Relationships to you/ the organization
 - Phone number, email address
 - Preferred language: English or Spanish
- How would this reference prefer to be contacted?
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Video call via zoom

TIMELINE:

- **Applications open:** Friday May 8, 2026
- **Information session:** Tuesday May 19 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- **Applications due:** Sunday June 7 11:59pm
- **Application review:** June/July
- **Decision Notifications:** End of July

INFORMATION SESSION: We will host an information session on **Tuesday May 19 from 4:30pm - 5:30pm** We will review the requirements for this grant and also answer any questions you might have. This session will be in Spanish. **Please register here:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9NwOlzfRTqi9n6Dh5vasuw>

DECISION-MAKING: The participatory grantmaking process will be led by a 9-member Unifying Council that has representatives from the various regions of our state (see list below). This process will be facilitated by the Project Manager who will not have a vote on grantmaking decisions. Decisions will be made in **July 2026** and selected groups should expect to receive notifications no later than the end of **July 31, 2026**.

NCLC UNIFYING COUNCIL:

Nombre	Organización	Región
Flor Herrera-Picasso	Casa Azul de Wilson	East
Susana Guijarro	ULECAN	East
Carlos Raul Manzares	Bridge to Pathways for Success	East
Alejandro Garcia	Valores	Central
Ivan Almonte	Respuesta Rapida Durham	Central
Tere Gonzalez	Circle de Luz	Central

Delia Jovel	Tierra Fertil	West
Ricardo Bello Ball	Unidxs	West
Graciela Ruiz	Watauga County Immigrant Justice Coalition	West

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Daniela Ceron, MSW

Project Director

daniela@nclatinxcollaborative.org